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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

COPY

Region - Five

REPLY TO: 5230 Evaluation

November 21, 1977

SUBJECT: Forest Insect Evaluation - DR 139/77

TO: Forest Supervisor, Plumas N.F.

124,320 acres

A report of many dying trees, occurring over a large area around French Creek of the Oroville District, was phoned in on October 25th by Glen Martin. The reported area was checked in the field on October 26th by Entomologist John Pierce, assisted by Wally Sacks and Steve Morse.

This field inspection confirmed that a seriously large quantity of timber is dying. This brief inspection was inadequate to properly evaluate the problem and we hope to gather additional information with aerial photographs in the near future. However, the following information is available now:

* Tree mortality is obviously far above normal.

* Most dying trees are ponderosa pines but there are quite a few sugar pines also.

* The tree mortality is believed to be related to drought stress but bark beetles are also involved.

* Evaluating current drought and bark beetle conditions indicates the tree mortality will probably continue and possibly increase.

The field inspection conducted on October 26 consisted of viewing the problem from vantage points, inspecting dying trees convenient to the road and inspecting logs on a landing of a small salvage sale. It was found that many dying trees are still green and not yet infested by bark beetles in the lower crown and bole. Other trees are occupied by the western pine beetle in the lower bole*. The inspection of logs on the landing revealed ips activity in the upper logs of many trees. The impression conveyed by the inspection - beyond the fact of large numbers of dying trees - was that the bark beetles are building up to utilize a large food supply provided by drought stressed trees. This condition suggests that a massive salvage program be considered for the area. Prompt salvage could utilize a large volume of dead timber and

*A small number of bark samples containing western pine beetle larvae were collected and analysed in our laboratory. Brood density averaged 2.8 larvae per square inch (range 1.5 to 4.6). This is judged to be a high population density.

prevent further loss of lumber quality from insect and fungal activity. Salvage completed by early next summer could also have the sanitation benefit of reducing the bark beetle food supply by removing green butted, top killed trees as well as removing the bark beetles in infested trees.

WILFRED L. FREEMAN, Jr., Director
Forest Insect and Disease Management

Enclosure

FOREST PEST DETECTION REPORT

I. FIELD INFORMATION

1. County: Butte	2. Forest (FS only): Plumas	3. District (FS only): Oroville
4. T. 21+22 N R. 5+6 E S. ____	6. Location: French Creek	7. Land Ownership: 1 ☒ Forest Service 2 ☐ Other Federal 3 ☐ State 4 ☒ Private
5. Date: Oct 25, 1977		

8. Cause of Damage: 1 ☒ Insect 4 ☒ Weather 2 ☐ Disease 5 ☐ Other 3 ☐ Animal 6 ☐ Unknown	9. Size of Tree Damaged: 1 ☐ Seedling 4 ☒ Sawtimber 2 ☐ Sapling 3 ☒ Pole 5 ☒ Overmature	10. Part of Tree Damaged: 1 ☐ Root 5 ☐ Twig 2 ☐ Branch 6 ☐ Bark 3 ☐ Leader 7 ☐ Cone 4 ☐ Trunk 8 ☐ Foliage
11. Species Damaged: PP - SP	12. Number Damaged: Many	13. Acres of Damage: Many

14. Damage Distribution: 1 ☒ Scattered 2 ☒ Grouped	15. Status of Damage: 1 ☒ Increasing 2 ☐ Decreasing 3 ☐ Static

16. Stand Type Class:	17. Plantation? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☒ No	18. Estimated Stems/Acre:

19. Pest Name (if known), and Remarks (symptoms and contributing factors):
Many large groups and individual trees dying

20. Sample ~~Forwarded~~? 1 ☒ Yes 2 ☐ No	21. Action Requested: 1 ☐ Your Information 2 ☐ Lab Identification 3 ☒ Field Evaluation	22. Reporter's Name: Glen Martin by V	23. Reporter's Agency: USFS
		24. Reporter's Address: Oroville	

II. REPLY

25. Report attached

26. Report Number: DR/352/77	27.	Date: 11/4/77 Signature: [signature]

DP 1397 77

Proposed Form R5-5200-33 (Rev. 7/75)